

Paul's record of accomplishment in the Treasurer's office is outstanding. One of his most notable achievements was his commitment to helping Rhode Island families save for their children's college education. As a result of his work, the CollegeBoundfund, Rhode Island's section 529 college savings program, was recognized by MSN Money in 2005 as one of the Nation's five best college savings plans in the country. Columnist Liz Pulliam Weston wrote: "It's a pity more of us don't live in Rhode Island if you live there, it's a mystery why you'd invest anywhere else." With the help of the Attorney General's office, he put a broken crime victims' compensation program back on its feet. He led with integrity. Paul certainly carried out what he proposed to do, that is, to leave the Treasurer's office in a better State than what he inherited.

But Paul's story doesn't begin in the Treasurer's office. During his successful career in the banking industry, Paul dedicated himself to a life of public service, beginning his career on the East Providence School Committee, and then the East Providence City Council. In 1992, Paul was elected to Rhode Island's State senate, where he served until taking office as general treasurer. I worked closely with Paul when I served on Governor Bruce Sundlun's senior staff, and I saw up close what a good senator he was.

Paul's years in the Senate were full of significant accomplishments, especially his efforts to create The CollegeBoundfund and his work on adoption; and his service as first deputy majority leader and as vice-chair of the Corporations Committee. Paul is remembered in the senate not only for his committed service but also for his legendary ability to pull practical jokes on his fellow senators. One he particularly enjoyed was to "borrow" a piece of letterhead paper from one of his fellow senators and write a note to another senator. He would then ask a page in the senate to deliver the letter and sit back to enjoy the ensuing uproar. That story says so much about Paul: he never takes himself too seriously; the jokes were always warm-hearted and they helped break tensions in that body. Paul was good for the senate.

Paul has also never forgotten where he comes from. A son of Portuguese immigrants who migrated to the United States from the Azores, he has truly lived the American dream. I am sure Paul's parents, the late Anibal and Laurentina Tavares, are looking down on us proud to see how far Paul's determination and talent have carried him in life. And I am sure he would agree that he would not have enjoyed nearly as much success without the love and support of his lovely wife Lee, his daughters Tessa, Kristen and Felicia, and his sons Nicholas and Andrew. Their unwavering commitment to Paul, and his unwavering commitment to them, have been extraordinary.

Rhode Islanders who know Paul also know well his selfless service to his community. Paul founded the Portuguese American Scholarship Foundation, is a cofounder of the East Providence Children's Portuguese School, and served on the Catholic Diocese of Providence Finance Council. His work in these organizations has not only enriched the Ocean State's Portuguese community, but has changed lives all over Rhode Island. And he does not just help people through organizations. Many Rhode Islanders know stories of people showing up on Paul's doorstep, asking for his help. Each time, he listened and did what he could. Paul has spent his life helping others without asking anything in return.

I am pleased to come to the floor of the Senate to join the Portuguese American Citizens Committee in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of our friend Paul Tavares. I extend congratulations, heartfelt thanks for a job well done, and best wishes to Paul and his family in all their future endeavors.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:40 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2467. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building".

H.R. 2587. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 2654. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the "Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building".

H.R. 2778. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, New York, as the "Robert Merrill Postal Station".

H.R. 2825. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, Illinois, as the "Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building".

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2467. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 69 Montgomery Street in Jersey City, New Jersey, as the "Frank J. Guarini Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2587. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 555 South 3rd Street Lobby in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Kenneth T. Whalum, Sr. Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2654. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 South Dumont Avenue in Woonsocket, South Dakota, as the "Eleanor McGovern Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2778. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle, New York, as the "Robert Merrill Postal Station"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2825. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 326 South Main Street in Princeton, Illinois, as the "Owen Lovejoy Princeton Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1908. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3162. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, proposed legislation intended to alter the funding structure for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3163. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the education of dependents of military personnel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3164. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Counter-narcotics, Counterproliferation and Global Threats), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Russia's tactical nuclear weapons arsenal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3165. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, a draft bill entitled the "Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Reform Act"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3166. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MORAVAN a.s. Model Z242L Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. FAA-2007-28114)) received on September 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3167. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Model 750XL Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2007-CE-033)) received on September 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3168. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule